

THE MAINE FARMER

RICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS LITERATURE NEWS, &c.

Vol. XLII.

THE MAINE FARMER.

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

Upcoming Meetings.

MAINE STATE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Meeting for the reading of papers and discussions, "in a winter session," at the Hotel Union, Portland, January 25th and 26th, 1874.

MAINE DAIRY ASSOCIATION: Annual meeting at Augusta, at Agricultural Room, State House, Tuesday, January 23d, 1874.

MAINE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY: Annual meeting at Agricultural Room, State House, Wednesday, January 24th, 1874.

A Call.

All who are interested in Dairying in any of its branches are invited to meet at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Board of Agriculture, for the purpose of organizing a "DAIRY DAY" at Augusta, Wednesday and Thursday, January 23d and 24th, 1874.

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Our Old Pastures.

Few practical subjects are of more importance to the farmer than the renovation of old pastures. And although in some sections of the country considerable attention is given to the subject; the farmers of Maine are not yet sufficiently aware of its importance, nor have they made much effort for the direct improvement of their old and exhausted pasture lands. It is however a branch of farming that, like a good many others, has been neglected long—and it is now high time that neglected pastures received some care.

One great mania of the early settlers of the country was to out down trees. They interfered with cultivation, they obstructed the view, they kept out the sun. So the sharp axe did its work, and we are to-day mourning over that our rough hill-sides, unfitted for anything but the growth of forests, which it will take generations to replace, were stripped of their original growth to form pastures where our early farmers might graze their cattle. These old pastures that have been very rocky, full of craggy stones, covered with moss and growing up with bushes, bracken and useless weeds. What are such pastures good for but to be left to themselves and grow up again to trees, that they may furnish timber and fuel for succeeding owners? The sooner they are set apart for such service, the better it will be for our farming, and the greater will be the benefit that the present will confer upon coming generations.

Something has been done, and much it is true may be done in the renovation of pastures that have been long grazed, by cutting out the bushes, by sowing on pasture, by pasturing with sheep, and other like means. But if efforts of this kind are spent upon an old pasture so rough and rocky it cannot be helped, they had better be put forth in other directions. Pastures that cannot be plowed and re-seeded must certainly be left to others than those that is grazing.

For many years the opinion was most vigorously maintained that pastures should never be plowed, if the sand was once broken it would never again become so compact as to form a good grazing turf. But this opinion has been found incorrect. Pastures may be plowed, broken up, and turned into a good crop, and then sown with grasses, and other like means.

Canadian butter is quite freely exported, and brings in London from 100s. to 12s. sterling per cwt., or about 25s. to 27s. gold, per pound; but most of the Canadian butter sent abroad is of inferior quality.

The following synopsis of the premiums awarded will shew at a glance the large number of competitors and the general interest manifested by the farmers of those towns in the exhibition: Horses, of all classes, eleven first, and six second premiums, next cattle, nine in six minutes and fourteen seconds, which is a fraction better than 2:30 to the mile for the entire distance. He was sired by the English known as "the best of the English" and fast colts. Knapp has been called a "Boswell Paezer," from the fact that in his first races he won a fore shoe weighing 2 1/4 pounds. He now trots in a pound and two ounce shoe, and is now being one of the most popular pacer trotters on the track.

His first race in 1866, when he won a race against Emperor and Johnny Smoker. Nov. 2d, same year, he met and defeated in three straight heats, the celebrated trotter, the celebrated twenty miler John Stewart, over the Mystic Park, Boston. The time of the heats were 2:33, 2:34, 2:36, and in the third heat Knapp gave a taste of his quality by trotting a quarter of a mile in 33s., which is the best time ever trotted in a five mile race in a mile race. The next season, Mr. Bailey had Knapp in training at Riverside Park, Boston, where he beat the best horses of his class—Ben Franklin, John Fenton, George McLean, Frank, and others, and Dart, a famous Dutch trotter.

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Augusta, January 17, 1874.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
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Three Months of the date of Subscription.All payments made by subscribers will be credited
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direction of his paper must communicate the
name of the office to which it has been previously sent,
otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices

Mr. C. S. TAYLOR will canvas Lincoln county during the ensuing month.

Mr. S. N. TAYLOR, our agent, will call upon Subscribers in a week, during the month of January.

Schemes and Jobs.

It would naturally be supposed that the extreme unpopularity of the increase salary bill might deter those who were foremost in securing its passage, from bringing forward measures to deplete the treasury of the United States, during the present session of Congress. But we have reason, and some of them are of such a character, that public attention cannot soon be directed to them.

One of these is a scheme for the relief of the Southern States by assuming their indebtedness. This matter has frequently been spoken of by Southern men and has generally been treated as a joke; but there are now the strongest indications that the present Congress will be called upon to act upon this question. The Massachusetts member of Congress who is expected to introduce and advocate this measure, has doubtless made a close examination into this subject and a careful estimate of the support he will be likely to receive. In the first place he will feel sure of securing the entire delegations from the Southern States who will support a measure of such immense advantage to their section of the country, in solid column. Added to these will be certain political supporters who are desirous of standing well with the people of the South, and back of all will be the support of all those capitalists and they are numerous, who are the principal hold-ers of the Southern bonds.

Another scheme which is already talked of, is a measure for the payment of the Confederate war debt. It's true that the 14th amendment to the constitution provides that "Neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void." This language is very definite and its precise meaning can neither be misconstrued nor misinterpreted, but the men who are expected to engineer these schemes, are fertile in expedients, and it is confidently expected that they will find some way to get round the constitutional provision. But if the 14th amendment to the constitution shall prove to be an obstacle which cannot be overcome, there is no constitutional provision which stands in the way of guaranteeing the debt of the Southern States incurred prior to the rebellion and subsequent to it. We will be urged that the Southern States are responsible for their share of the national debt incurred in suppressing the rebellion. In this respect they stand on an exact equality with the Northern States. But they lost the Confederacy and their slaves, and the argument will be used that it will be directly in the line of reconciliation to compensate them in whole or in part for these losses.

Ever since the close of the war and the reconstruction of the Southern States, southern statesmen have entertained the idea that they would eventually be paid at least for their slaves, and recent events have tended to strengthen these hopes.

There are several gentlemen who are prominent in politics and who aspire to still higher honors, and these are the men who will lead off in this scheme of plunder. If success can only be assured, there will be no lack of money for use in the lobby and so the master becomes one of no mean or trifling importance. The first impression on the presentation of such a project would be that it could not possibly succeed, but when we realize the measures which passed through during the last session of Congress, we should be prepared for anything.

We think that the public at large will soon become convinced that it is no longer any subject for a joke. The man who is to lead off, is ambitious and unscrupulous, and able and far seeing. For two years he has made almost superhuman efforts to be the governor of Massachusetts, as a stepping stone to the presidency. He knows very well that his chances for the latter office, which is his real objective point and the goal of his infinite ambition, would be greatly improved if he could bring to his support the Southern States. This is doubtless the mainspring of his actions with reference to this subject.

Another job which is likely to come before Congress during the present session, is in the interest of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The modest request of this corporation is that Congress shall guarantee the interest on its bonds. The Northwest will go solid for this scheme and other sections will be drawn into its support as interest shall dictate incline them. The bonds of this company are scattered broadcast all over the land, and every bond holder is interested in the success of the scheme which will be backed by a powerful lobby and large comb served in nine months regiments.

A sharper attempt to play a small game on the cashier of the Granite Bank in this city last Friday, by obtaining small bills for a hundred dollar note, then exchanging the small bills for a hundred dollar greenback, meanwhile concealing the original one hundred dollar note. The cashier soon discovered the game but the fellow had departed. He was overwhelmed at Hallowell, whither he had walked, as he was about to take the train, and obliged to disgorge. Previous to this he was never in the service and Hooke, Chase and Whitcomb served in nine months regiments.

The following is the military record of the members of the Staff in the late war: Dr. Dyer was Colonel of the 15th Maine; Hooke, Assistant Surgeon General; Colonel Marvin V. B. Chase, Augusta, Assistant Commissioner General; Colonel Greenleaf T. Stevens, West Waterville, Assistant Judge Advocate General.

Aides de Camp: —Lt. Col. Zeno A. Smith, Portland; Lt. Col. Harrison Howe, Cherryfield; Lt. Col. Nelson Howard, Lewiston; Lt. Col. John F. Whitcomb, Ellsworth; Major Alexander H. S. Davis, Farmington, Military Secretary.

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The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

At market for the current year—Cattle \$125; Sheep and Lambs \$6.65; Swine \$8.00; Number of Cattle and Sheep \$125; Eastern Cattle.

Prizes—Best Cattle, first quality \$6.65 per weight, ex-
cept in lambs, first quality \$6.65 per lb.; second
quality \$6.65 per lb.; third quality \$4.65 per lb.; poor
and very poor \$3.65 per lb.

Brighton Hides—Sheep per lb., Brighton Tallow 50
per lb.

Cowhides—Sheep per lb., Country Tallow 40
per lb.

Calf Skins—Sheep \$125 per lb.; Sheep Skins \$1.75 each.

From the West the supply of Cattle for the week
continued to be small, with a few more than 100,000
head, and the quality was full as good as that of one week ago.

Prizes—Best Cattle, first quality \$6.65 per lb.; second
quality \$6.65 per lb.; third quality \$4.65 per lb.; poor
and very poor \$3.65 per lb.

Working Oxen—Not much call for them. A few
pairs each week, in the market at \$1.00 per pair.

Sheep—We quote sales of 1 lb. of 7 lbs. 10 oz.
\$1.00; 1 lb. of 8 lbs. 10 oz. \$1.10; 1 lb. of 9 lbs. 10 oz.
\$1.15; 1 lb. of 10 lbs. 10 oz. \$1.25.

Sheep and Lambs—There are nearly all the small Cattle brought
into market that in a fair condition are sold for
Beef, most of them being 1000 lbs. or less.

Quality—Best Cattle, first quality \$6.65 per
head, and the quality was full as good as that of one week ago.

Working Oxen—Not much call for them. A few
pairs each week, in the market at \$1.00 per pair.

Swine—Few—No more in market. Fat
Hogs—\$800 to \$1000 per head.

Wool Market.

Wool—No more in market.

The market for Wool is very firm, and all price
continues to be realized for all kinds, with a fall in
the price of 1000 lbs. of 1000 lbs. per lb. from \$1.00 to
\$0.90, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania at \$0.80;

Michigan, \$0.75; and Boston, \$0.70.

Wool—No more in market, but a few extra Cows offered
in market for sale, most of them being of an ordinary
grade. We quote sales of 1 lb. of 7 lbs. 10 oz.
\$1.00; 1 lb. of 8 lbs. 10 oz. \$1.10; 1 lb. of 9 lbs. 10 oz.
\$1.15; 1 lb. of 10 lbs. 10 oz. \$1.25.

Sheep—Few—No more in market. Fat
Hogs—\$800 to \$1000 per head.

Swine—Few—No more in market. Fat
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Poetry.

THE LONG AGO.

BY ALICE M. LEWIS.

There comes a day in the midst of toil
And rounds of dreary care,
That is fair with the scenes of countless flowers,
With blossoms that perfume the air,
With swallows twitter beneath the eaves,
And west the sun sets low;

When we wake, and we launch our bark,
On the tide of long ago.

All blithely flows the current of years,
With the roses that wear the robes of truim,
And the peans that brook the thorns,
And sit on the rhythmic air
Comes the song of many a summer day,

From purple distance.

Familiar voices about us call,

And they wear a yearning sweet.

Turns the heart to the scenes of paths

With childhood's eager feet.

A sudden bend in the plain's care,

A smile of joy, a laugh of glee,

And we moor our bark at the garden gate

With the rose and the lily.

With the child's eyes astute,

And her face adorably fair,

With a father, with fond hands,

Within the window seat,

Sitting by the garden gate,

The past of little feet.

And here, just beyond, is the bend in the road,

And there is the meadow green.

Was there ever a lover like him?

Was there ever a lover like him?

That we wed its dews grow,

And we wear its years.

Has the gap between

Here is the rose where the plumpers blow,

And under this elm's tree's cover,

Was the school from which we came,

To search for four-leaved clover.

Was there ever a lover like him?

That we wed its dews grow,

And we wear its years.

Has the gap between

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Was the school from which we came,

To search for four-leaved clover.

Was there ever a lover like him?

That we wed its dews grow,

And we wear its years.

Has the gap between

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